DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona

Division of Developmental Disabilities - Town Hall
July 16, 2020

COVID-19 Update

DDD's top priority continues to be the health and safety of our members, their families, and the professionals in our program that support them.

- Working with ADHS and CDC guidelines to ensure appropriate measures are in place to allow for the continuation of necessary services
- Monitoring service delivery and availability to ensure service continuation
- Providing regular updates on the DDD COVID-19 Website: https://bit.ly/DDD_COVID19Actions

COVID-19 Update

Congregate Programs

- Congregate settings are advised to engage with all of their partners to develop specific protocols and procedures (plans).
- Review Pandemic Plan for CDC/ADHS Compliance by DDD Quality Assurance Monitoring
- Plans should include:
  - Social distancing to limit further spread of COVID-19
  - Room isolation: what someone should do if a member presents with flu-like symptoms or has been diagnosed with COVID-19
  - Caregiver guidance: how to provide care for a person who is sick with a flu-like illness or has been diagnosed with COVID-19
  - A strategy to support members who have confirmed cases of COVID-19

COVID-19 Update

Congregate Programs

- Screen All Staff, Visitors, Vendors, and Members
- Individuals with any of the conditions below should be restricted from entering the program site:
  - Sick with a fever, cough, or sneezing.
  - Recent travel (i.e., within the past 14 days) from a COVID-19-affected geographic area.
  - Close contact with a person diagnosed with COVID-19 in the past 14 days.

COVID-19 Update

Congregate Programs

- Restrict Visitors
  - Congregate programs/ homes should follow the guidance issued by the CDC, ADHS, AHCCCS, DES and/or Governor Ducey's Executive Orders or by their contingency/pandemic plan regarding visitation and restrictions of all non-essential personnel.
  - The congregate program/ home should develop and issue communications to all potential visitors, family members, and funding agencies regarding any changes.
  - Additional Considerations can be found in the document.

COVID-19 Update

Agency Preparedness

- All Qualified Vendors should immediately provide refresher training to all staff on essential infection control techniques and prevention.
- This training should include, but is not limited to:
  - Information on basic standard precautions
  - Proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
  - Environmental cleaning
  - Review of activity restrictions
  - Use of quarantine and isolation
  - Education on COVID-19 signs and symptoms, and risk factors that increase the potential for disease transmission and complications of COVID-19.
  - All staff should wear a face mask or face covering while they are in the program or home

COVID-19 Update

Minimize Potential Exposures

- If there is exposure of COVID-19 to members or staff, a range of practices can be used to minimize exposure at homes, program sites and other congregate settings, including:
  - Suspend all visitation to the congregate setting except when medically necessary
  - Minimize the duration and number of visits
  - Require visitors to wear a cloth face cover while in the congregate setting and should be allowed only in the room of the member they are visiting.
  - Provide other methods to meet the social and emotional needs of the member, such as video calls.
  - Post signage notifying the public of the suspension of visitation and proactively notify family members of the members we support.
  - Monitor the health of staff.

COVID-19 Update

Assessing Risk

- Targeted toward vendors and planning teams
  - Members who live with other members
  - Either they are high risk or another member in home is high risk or they need extra precautions
  - Planning team must work together to develop strategies that mitigate risk of COVID-19 exposure to the home
  - Vendor can implement mitigation strategies to protect other members and staff
    - These mitigation strategies are not considered a rights restriction
- The CDC has recently updated its Guidance for Direct Care Workers
  - DDD has updated the Congregate Care Guidance Document to include Direct Care Workers in all settings.
  - https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/direct-service-providers.html

COVID-19 Update

Positive COVID-19 Reporting and Technical Assistance

- Requires the vendor to submit an incident report and tells the vendor how the Quality Management Unit and Health Care Services Teams will support the vendor

- Guidance was updated to provide additional information to vendors regarding negotiated rates in DDD Group Homes to provide care for members who are positive for COVID-19.

COVID-19 Update

COVID-19 Reporting – July 14, 2020

Residential Setting	Total Members	Positive COVID-19 Cases	Member Deaths
Family/Own Home	39,064	246	9
Licensed Residential Setting	4,973	242	18
Total	**44,027**	**488**	**27**

Data gathered from:

- Incident Reports submitted to the Division
- Arizona Health Information Exchange
- Monday Close of Business Data Posted each Tuesday.

COVID-19 Update

Training Updates

- Updated FAQ on DDD Actions Related to COVID-19 page
- DDD had implemented 90-day extension for expired or expiring certifications
  - CPR/First Aid and Prevention & Support
  - New extension has been granted through September 18, 2020
- Article 9 training will continue to be available via video conferencing
- Article 9 new instructor training will be available with reduced class sizes
- Existing Article 9 and Prevention & Support instructors with expiring certifications will have option for observed teaching for recertification

COVID-19 Update

DDD Actions Related to COVID-19

- https://bit.ly/DDD_COVID19Actions
- Behavioral Health Support for Members and Families
- COVID-19 Resources for Older Adults and People with Disabilities
- Resources for the Disability Community in Arizona (ADDPC)
- AHCCCS Frequently Asked Questions: https://azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/AboutUs/covid19FAQ.html
- Additional Resources

#MaskUpAz

AHCCCS Electronic Visit Verification (EVV)

AHCCCS is using EVV to help ensure, track and monitor timely service delivery and access to care for members. The DDD Services impacted are:

- Attendant Care
- Homemaker/Housekeeping
- Habilitation Hourly
- Home Health (Nursing)
- Respite
- Skills Training and Development
- Applies to all providers of these services, including paid family direct care workers
- azahcccs.gov/evv

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Questions?